# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E. Secretary to the Commission

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# **OPINION 507**

Use of the Plenary Powers to secure that the generic name *Panulirus* White, 1847 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) shall be the oldest available name for the genus concerned



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

# COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 507

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Dr. Henning Lemche (Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark) (27th July 1948)
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essor Harold E. Vokes (University of Tulane, Department of Geology, New Orleans,

1953) (President)
Professor Harold E. Vokes (University of Tulane, Department of Geology, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.) (12th August 1953)
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Dr. Alden H. Miller (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.) (29th October 1954)
Doc. Dr. Ferdinand Prantl (Národni Museum V Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia) (30th

Doc. Dr. Ferdinand Prantl (Národni Museum V Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia) (30th

October 1954)

Professor Dr. Wilhelm Kühnelt (Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria) (6th November 1954) Professor F. S. Bodenheimer (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel) (11th November

1954) Professor Ernst MAYR (Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) (4th December 1954)
Professor Enrico Tortonese (Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy

(16th December 1954)

# OPINION 507

USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SECURE THAT THE GENERIC NAME "PANULIRUS" WHITE, 1847 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA) SHALL BE THE OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME FOR THE GENUS CONCERNED

**RULING**:—(1) The under-mentioned names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:—

- (a) the generic name Phyllosoma Leach, 1818;
- (b) the following specific names:—
  - (i) commune Leach, 1818, as published in the combination *Phyllosoma commune*;
  - (ii) rissonii Desmarest, 1825, as published in the combination Palinurus rissonii.
- (2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1256:—
  - Panulirus White, 1847 (gender: masculine) (type species, by selection by Holthuis (L.B.) (1956): Palinurus japonicus Siebold, 1824).
- (3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below:—
  - (a) japonicus Siebold, 1824, as published in the combination *Palinurus japonicus* (specific name of type species of *Panulirus* White, 1847) (Name No. 1496);

- (b) regius de Brito Capello, 1864, as published in the combination *Panulirus regius* (Name No. 1497).
- (4) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below:—
  - (a) Phyllosoma Leach, 1818, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above (Name No. 1144);
  - (b) Senex Pfeffer, 1881 (a junior homonym of Senex Gray (J.E.), [1838] and a junior objective synonym of Panulirus White, 1847) (Name No. 1145).
- (5) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below:—
  - (a) commune Leach, 1818, as published in the combination *Phyllosoma commune*, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b)(i) above (Name No. 507);
  - (b) rissonii Desmarest, 1825, as published in the combination Palinurus rissonii, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b)(ii) above (Name No. 508).

### I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 10th October 1955, Dr. L. B. Holthuis (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands) submitted to the

Office of the Commission a preliminary application for the use by the Commission of its Plenary Powers to suppress the generic name *Phyllosoma* Leach, 1818, for the purpose of securing that the well-known generic name *Panulirus* White, 1847 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) should be the oldest available name for the genus in question. Following correspondence with the Office of the Commission this application was revised in certain respects and in its definitive form was submitted to the Commission by Dr. Holthuis on 9th January 1956. The paper so submitted was as follows:—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to render the generic name "Panulirus" White, 1847 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) the oldest available name for the genus concerned and matters incidental thereto

# By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands)

The present application relates to the name *Panulirus* White, 1847, which is widely used among carcinologists for a genus of Spiny Lobsters. This name is invalid since it is a junior subjective synonym of the name *Phyllosoma* Leach, 1818, which until now has only been used to indicate larval stages. A strict application of the Law of Priority would result here in considerable confusion, for the prevention of which the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to make use of its Plenary Powers.

- 2. The original references to the generic names dealt with here are the following:—
- Panulirus White, 1847, List Crust. Brit. Mus.: 69 (type species, by present selection: Palinurus japonicus Von Siebold, 1824, Hist. nat. Japon.: 15) (gender: masculine)
- Phyllosoma Leach, 1818, J. Phys. Chim. Hist. nat. Arts 86: 306 (type species, by present selection: Phyllosoma commune Leach, 1818, J. Phys. Chim. Hist. nat. Arts 86: 307) (gender: neuter)
- Senex Pfeffer, 1881, Verh. naturwiss. Ver. Hamburg 5: 30 (a substitute name for Panulirus White, 1847) (invalid, because a junior homonym of Senex Gray (J.E.), [1838] (Zool. Voy. Beagle 3(3): 13)) (gender: masculine).

- 3. Till 1847 the Spiny Lobsters were considered to belong to one genus, *Palinurus* Fabricius, 1798. Then White (1847) split this genus into three genera, to one of which he gave the new name *Panulirus*. Practically all subsequent authors who recognised the distinctness of White's genus from *Palinurus* Fabricius adopted the name *Panulirus* for it. Only a few zoologists objected to the name *Panulirus* as, in their opinion, it resembled too much that of *Palinurus*; these authors substituted the name *Senex* Pfeffer, 1881, for *Panulirus* White. *Senex* Pfeffer, however, besides being a junior objective synonym of *Panulirus* White, is a junior homonym of *Senex* Gray, 1838, and thus is invalid for two reasons. *Panulirus* White has been adopted by more than 150 authors, while the name *Senex* for this genus has been used by about 11 authors, at least 5 of which later started to use White's name.
- 4. In 1818, Leach described a new genus of Crustacea which he named Phyllosoma and which later proved to be based on the larval stages of species of PALINURIDAE and SCYLLARIDAE. Leach included four species in his genus for which, as far as is known to me, no type species has ever been indicated. Therefore I select now in accordance with Recommandation (m) in Article 30 of the Règles, as the type species of the genus Phyllosoma Leach, 1818, the nominal species Phyllosoma commune Leach, 1818. This species, as is distinctly shown by Leach's description and figure, is the larval stage of a species of Panulirus. It was reported by Leach from Porto-Praya, Cape Verde Islands, and from off the coast of French Congo (2° 58′ 0″ S, 9° 21′ 22″ E); the latter locality, being the more accurate of the two, is selected here as the restricted type locality of *Phyllosoma commune*. The only species of Spiny Lobster occurring in this region is the one known under the names of Panulirus rissonii (Desmarest, 1825) (= Palinurus rissonii Desmarest, 1825, Consid. gén. Class. Crust.: 185) or Panulirus regius de Brito Capello, 1864 (Mem. Acad. Sci. Lisboa, Class. Sci. math. phys. nat. (2) 3:5). The species *Panulirus guttatus* (Latreille, 1804), it is true, has been reported several times from the west coast of Africa (cf. Bouvier, 1905, Bull. Mus. océanogr. Monaco 29: 1—6, who believed that species to occur at the Cape Verde Islands, Liberia, Dahomey and Sao Thomé). Gruvel (1913, Ann. Inst. océanogr. Paris 3(4): 30, 36), however, was able to prove that practically all of these records were based on specimens of P. rissonii. The only certain record of the occurrence of  $\dot{P}$ . guttatus in the West African region is that by Dr. Th. Monod, Director of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire in Dakar, who in a recent letter informed me that one of his collaborators had obtained three specimens of that species from the Cape Verde Islands. Other records of this species are from the east coast of America (Bermuda to Sao Paulo, Brazil) and from the Atlantic Islands of St. Pauls Rocks and Ascension. Gurney (1936, Discov. Rep. 12:405-415) when dealing with the South Atlantic species of Phyllosomas, recognized two forms (named Form A and B by him) which belong to the genus *Panulirus*. Gurney's

description and figures clearly show that his Form A is identical with *Phyllosoma commune*, while his Form B is different. Gurney arrived at the conclusion, based on abundant material, that his form B probably is the Phyllosoma of the American *P. argus* (Latreille), Form A being that of *Panulirus regius*. When the localities of Gurney's Form A and B are put out on a map, we find that in the samples taken off the West African coast only Form A is represented, except in one sample from near the Cape Verde Islands, which contains both Form A and B. Form B furthermore occurred plentifully near St. Paul's Rocks (often together with Form A) and in several samples taken off the N.E. coast of Brazil. This evidence shows that there can be little doubt that Gurney's identification of Form A with *Panulirus regius* (=*P. rissonii*) is correct, so that the names *Phyllosoma commune* Leach, 1818, *Palinurus rissonii* Desmarest, 1825 and *Panulirus regius* de Brito Capello, 1864, are synonyms. As Dr. Th. Monod has pointed out to me, the distribution of Gurney's Form B makes it probable that this form is the larval stage of *P. guttatus* rather than that of *P. argus*, but this question is not relevant here.

- 5. If the normal provisions of the *Règles* are strictly adhered to in the present case, the generic name *Panulirus* White, 1847, would have to be replaced by the name *Phyllosoma* Leach, 1818, while the specific name *rissonii* Desmarest, 1825 would have to give way to *commune* Leach, 1818. However, *Phyllosoma* at present is hardly ever used as a generic name, but has more or less become a term to indicate larval forms (Phyllosomas or phyllosoma-stages) not only of the genus *Panulirus*, but also of all the genera of the families PALINURIDAE and SCYLLARIDAE. Furthermore, as has already been pointed out, the generic name *Panulirus* White has become deeply rooted in carcinological nomenclature. It is clear therefore that the replacement of this generic name by that of *Phyllosoma* would greatly upset the stability of carcinological nomenclature and the use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers to prevent this confusion seems to be fully justified. The suppression of the generic name *Phyllosoma* of course will not prevent the word "Phyllosoma" from being available as a term to indicate larval forms.
- 6. A second problem which calls for consideration is concerned with the specific name of the West African Spiny Lobster. Until recently the specific name regius de Brito Capello, 1864, was used by the majority of carcinologists. In 1946 (Temminckia 7: 122), however, the present author pointed out that the species, Panulirus regius de Brito Capello, had been described as early as 1825 under the name Palinurus rissonii Desmarest (1825, Consid. gén. Classe Crust.: 185). As Desmarest's name has priority over that given by de Brito Capello, I substituted the former for the latter. So far as is known to me eight authors have dealt with the present species after 1946, five of these continued to use the specific name regius, while three adopted

rissonii. We find therefore that the name rissonii at present is very little used and that there is no reason to preserve it by making use of the Plenary Powers of the International Commission. It has been pointed out already that the oldest name for the species in all probability is commune Leach, 1818. Though the evidence that Phyllosoma commune Leach, 1818, is identical with Panulirus regius de Brito Capello, 1864, is very convincing, it is not conclusive as long as one of these nominal species has not been reared from the other, and as long as it is not proved that Phyllosoma commune is not the larva of a related species. Furthermore, the name commune has hardly ever been used during the last 100 years, while the authors using it before that time evidently confused several species under it, since it is reported by those authors both from West Africa and the Indo-West Pacific region. For these reasons it seems better to suppress this name altogether. As already pointed out above the name *rissonii* has hardly every been used in carcinological literature, the name *regius* being the one generally adopted by carcinologists. This species is of economic importance for it is caught for food in West Africa and even exported to Europe. The literature dealing with it is, however, not very extensive. I know of only about 35 authors who have dealt with this species. Of these, 25 used the name regius, and six that of Since in Gruvel's (1911, Ann. Inst. océanogr. Paris 3(4)) monograph of the PALINURIDAE as well as in the economic and general papers of that author the name regius always has been used, it seems worth while to preserve this name.

- 7. The genus *Panulirus* White is currently referred to the family PALINURIDAE and accordingly no family-group name problem arises in this case.
- 8. The concrete proposals which I now submit for consideration are that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should:—
  - (1) use its Plenary Powers to suppress the under-mentioned names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:—
    - (a) the generic name Phyllosoma Leach, 1818;
    - (b) the following specific names:-
      - (i) commune Leach, 1818, as published in the combination *Phyllosoma commune*;
      - (ii) rissonii Desmarest, 1825, as published in the combination Palinurus rissonii;
  - (2) place the under-mentioned generic name on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:—Panulirus White, 1847 (gender:

- masculine) (type species, by selection by Holthuis (in paragraph 2 of the present application): *Palinurus japonicus* von Siebold, 1824);
- (3) place the under-mentioned specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:—
  - (a) japonicus von Siebold, 1824, as published in the combination *Palinurus japonicus* (specific name of type species of *Panulirus* White, 1847);
  - (b) regius de Brito Capello, 1864, as published in the combination Panulirus regius;
- (4) place the under-mentioned generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:—
  - (a) *Phyllosoma* Leach, 1818, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above;
  - (b) Senex Pfeffer, 1881 (a junior homonym of Senex Gray (J.E.), [1838], and a junior objective synonym of Panulirus White, 1847);
- (5) place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the specific names specified above in (1)(b)(i) and (1)(b)(ii) respectively as there suppressed under the Plenary Powers.

# II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

- 2. Registration of the present application: Upon the receipt of Dr. Holthuis's application, the question of securing that the generic name *Panulirus* White, 1847 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) should be the oldest available name for the genus in question was allotted the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 1030.
- 3. Publication of the present application: The present application was sent to the printer on 20th February 1956 and was

published on 12th June of the same year in Part 2 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Holthuis, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12:55—59).

- **4.** Issue of Public Notices: Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, Bull. zool. Nomencl. **4**: 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 12th June 1956 (a) in Part 2 of Volume 12 of the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (the Part in which Dr. Holthuis's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications.
- 5. Support received from Teiso Esaki (Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan): On 21st August 1956 there was received in the Office of the Commission the following letter from Professor Teiso Esaki (Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan) in which he intimated his support for the present case (Esaki, 1956, Bull. zool. Nomencl. 12: 266):—

I would like to support Dr. Holthuis' application for preserving *Panulirus* White, 1847, by suppressing its senior subjective synonym *Phyllosoma* Leach, 1818. The species of *Panulirus* are important as marine products in Japan, and its type species, *Panulirus japonicus* (von Siebold, 1824), is well known and one of the most appreciated delicacies in this country. For those species the generic name *Panulirus* has been most extensively used in both scientific and economic papers for many years. The name *Phyllosoma* is also popular in textbooks of zoology and fisheries as denoting a special stage of development, but is never used as a generic name. Therefore the preservation of the name *Panulirus* as the generic name of the Japanese Spiny Lobster and allied species is highly desirable in the interest of stability.

6. No objection received: No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source,

# III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

- 7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)6: On 22nd January 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)6) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Panulirus* White, 1847, as set out in Points (1) to (5) in paragraph 8 on pages 58 and 59 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].
- 8. The Prescribed Voting Period: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 22nd April 1957.
- 9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)6: At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)6 was as follows:—
  - (a) Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twentythree (23) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received):

Hering; Boschma; Holthuis; Prantl; Lemche; Jaczewski; Mayr; Dymond; Bodenheimer; Vokes; Riley; Esaki; Key; Hemming; Bonnet; Mertens<sup>1</sup>; Stoll; Cabrera; do Amaral; Kühnelt; Tortonese; Sylvester-Bradley; Miller;

(b) Negative Votes:

None;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Professor Mertens, while voting affirmatively on this Voting Paper, indicated that the approval so given did not extend to the proposal for the suppression under the Plenary Powers of the specific name *rissonii* Desmarest, 1825 (*Palinurus*).

(c) On Leave of Absence, one (1):

Bradley (J.C.);

(d) Prevented from voting by the interruption of postal communications consequent upon political disturbances, one (1):

Hankó;

(e) Voting Papers not returned:

None.

- 10. Declaration of Result of Vote: On 24th April 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)6, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.
- 11. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion": On 27th December 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)6.

12. Original References: The following are the original references for names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*:—

commune, Phyllosoma, Leach, 1818, J. Phys. Chim. Hist. nat. 86: 307

japonicus, Palinurus, Siebold, 1824, Hist. nat. Japon.: 15

Panulirus White, 1847, List Crust. Brit. Mus.: 69

Phyllosoma Leach, 1818, J. Phys. Chim. Hist. nat. 86: 306

regius, Panulirus, de Brito Capello, 1864, Mem. Acad. Sci. Lisboa, Class. Sci. math. phys. nat. (2) 3:5

rissonii, Palinurus, Desmarest, 1825, Consid. gén. Class. Crust.: 185

Senex Pfeffer, 1881, Verh. naturwiss. Ver. Hamburg 5:30

13. Selection of a type species for a nominal genus: The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*:—

For Panulirus White, 1847

Holthuis (L.B.), 1956, *Bull zool. Nomencl.* **12**: 55

- **14. Family-Group-Name Aspects:** No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the genus *Panulirus* White being currently placed in the family PALINURIDAE.
- 15. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

**16.** The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Seven (507) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Seventh day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

# FRANCIS HEMMING